

of stakeholder meetings that started in 1995 to obtain input on the Agency's Drinking Water Program. These meetings were initiated as part of the Drinking Water Program Redirection efforts to help refocus EPA's drinking water priorities and to support strong, flexible partnerships among EPA, states, Tribes, local governments, and the public. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from state and Tribal drinking water programs, the regulated community (public water systems), public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms, and other stakeholders on a number of issues related to developing the new regulatory impact analysis framework. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.

DATES: The stakeholder meeting on the new regulatory impact analysis framework for drinking water regulations will be held on Thursday, November 12, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST and Friday, November 13, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.

ADDRESSES: To register for the meeting, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 between 9:00 am and 5:30 pm EST. Those registered for the meeting by Tuesday, November 3, 1998, will receive an agenda, logistics sheet, and background materials prior to the meeting. Members of the public who cannot attend the meeting in person may participate via conference call and should register with the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. Conference lines will be allocated on the basis of first reserved, first served. Members of the public who cannot participate but want to submit comments must do so in writing by December 13, 1998, in order for their comments to be included in the meeting summary. Submit comments to Ben Smith, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW (4607), Washington, DC, 20460 or smith.ben@epamail.epa.gov. The stakeholders meeting will be held in Suite 275, 1255 23rd Street, NW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on meeting logistics, or for information on the activities related to developing the regulatory impact analysis framework and other EPA activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996, EPA must provide a thorough cost-benefit analysis, as well as comprehensive, informative, and understandable information to the public. The 1996 SDWA Amendments require new regulations be developed so as to ensure that they represent a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction. Also required is a detailed analysis of the relationship between new regulations and health impacts, including those to sensitive subgroups; impacts of other contaminants; treatment objectives; and incremental impacts above a baseline that considers current regulations, uncertainty, and affordability. EPA must also consider the impact on the technical, financial, and managerial capacity of water systems. In so doing, EPA must also use the best available, peer reviewed science and methods. The Amendments provide EPA with flexibility to identify and incorporate new benefits, including willingness to pay. In addition, EPA has expanded information-gathering authority, and must consider point-of-use and point-of-entry devices. After first defining a maximum contaminant level (MCL), or treatment technique standard based on affordable technology, EPA must determine whether the costs of that standard would be justified by the benefits. If not, EPA may adjust an MCL to a level that maximizes health risk reduction benefits at a cost that is justified by the benefits. The authority to adjust the MCL has limits that also require evaluation. In addition to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act impose additional analytical and consultative requirements in connection with new rules.

The upcoming meeting will deal with the following topics: benefits-related projects of the Health Effects and Criteria Division (part of EPA's Office of Science and Technology); the National Drinking Water Advisory Council benefits working group; the Children's Health Guidance Project; model systems and industry subcategorization; barriers to migration towards life-cycle based technology costing; inter-rule impacts; cost-benefit analysis integration for upcoming and longer term goals; specific draft reports (Baseline, Phase I Treatment Costs, Cost of Capital); and, of course, time for stakeholder input and comments.

B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA has announced this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on EPA's emerging framework for regulatory impact analysis. The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above and other issues related to the framework for regulatory impact analysis during the November 12 and 13, 1998, meeting or in writing by December 13, 1998.

Dated: October 13, 1998.

William R. Diamond,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Environmental Protection Agency.

[FR Doc. 98-27928 Filed 10-16-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6177-8]

Meeting of the Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This meeting is the third for the Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee. The group takes up the work of an earlier advisory group known as the Small Towns Task Force. At this meeting, the subcommittee will hear presentations about the Small Community Activities Inventory Update and the small town Mayors' fact finding mission. Part of the meeting will also be devoted to consideration of the proposed mission statement. The group will also hear from Northampton County, Virginia officials on sustainable community development issues. Finally, the group will discuss issues concerning the relationship between state governments and small communities as they relate to environmental protection. Responsibility for the Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee rests with the Office of Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) under the leadership of Joseph R. Crapa, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations and Linda B. Rimer, Deputy Associate Administrator for State and Local Relations. OCIR serves as the Agency's principal liaison with State and local

government officials and the organizations which represent them.

This is an open meeting and all interested persons are invited to attend. Meeting minutes will be available after the meeting and can be obtained by written request from the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). Members of the public are requested to call the DFO at the number listed below if planning to attend so that arrangements can be made to comfortably accommodate attendees as much as possible. However, seating will be on a first come, first served basis.

This meeting will be conducted at the Sunset Beach Inn on U.S. Route 13 in Cape Charles, Virginia. Those individuals wishing to make a statement before the subcommittee are encouraged to submit a written statement. From 8:30–9:15 a.m. on November 6, the Committee will hear comments from the public. Each individual or organization wishing to address the Committee will be allowed at least five minutes. Please contact the DFO at the number listed below to schedule agenda time. Time will be allotted on a first come, first served basis.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4 and conclude at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sunset Beach Inn, 32246 Lankford Highway, U.S. Route 13, Cape Charles, Virginia 23310.

Requests for Minutes and other information can be obtained by writing to 401 M Street, SW (1305), Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The DFO for this subcommittee is Steven R. Wilson. He is the point of contact for information concerning any Committee matters and can be reached by calling (202) 260–2294.

Dated: October 13, 1998.

Michelle A. Hiller,

Acting Designated Federal Officer, Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 98–27923 Filed 10–16–98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6177–7]

National Drinking Water Advisory Council Small Systems Implementation Working Group; Notice of Open Meeting

Under section 10(a)(2) of Pub. L. 92–423, “The Federal Advisory Committee

Act,” notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Small Systems Implementation Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S300f *et seq.*), will be held on November 4 and 5, 1998 from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, at the Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037. The meeting is open to the public, but due to past experience, seating will be limited.

The purpose of this meeting is to identify and discuss challenges faced by small water systems in complying with the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended in 1996. The meeting is open to the public to observe. The working group members are meeting to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts and discuss options. Statements will be taken from the public at this meeting, as time allows.

For more information, please contact, Peter E. Shanaghan, Designated Federal Officer, Small Systems Working Group, U.S. EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4606), 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460. The telephone number is 202–260–5813 and the email address is shanaghan.peter@epamail.epa.gov.

Dated: October 1, 1998.

Charlene Shaw,

Designated Federal Officer, National Drinking Water Advisory Council.

[FR Doc. 98–27922 Filed 10–16–98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6177–6]

Alaska: Partial Program Adequacy Final Determination of State Class I and II Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permit Program—and Partial Program Adequacy Tentative Determination of State Class III Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permit Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, requires States to develop and implement permit programs to ensure that municipal solid waste landfills which may receive hazardous household waste or small quantity generator waste will comply with the revised Federal landfill criteria. RCRA also requires the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) to determine whether States have adequate “permit” programs for municipal landfills.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and its Division of Environmental Health (DEH) applied on February 12, 1996 for a partial determination of adequacy under RCRA. EPA reviewed Alaska’s application and subsequent supplemental information provided during March through October 1996. In the **Federal Register** on November 25, 1996, EPA published its tentative determination of adequacy for those portions of ADEC’s Municipal Solid Waste landfill (MSWLF) permit program that were adequate to assure compliance with the federal MSWLF criteria. Alaska’s application for partial program adequacy determination was made available for public review during EPA’s public comment period which ended on January 23, 1997.

During the period that EPA was evaluating the public comments, proposals were initiated by the Alaska Legislature that included eliminating the solid waste program or reducing ADEC’s Solid Waste staff to less than half. The final budget reductions established in late May 1997, for the 1998 fiscal year (FY–98), were significant but not as severe as originally proposed. (Alaska’s Fiscal years begin on July 1.) In its letter of May 30, 1997, ADEC states that the final dollar budget for FY–98 was set at 13% lower than for the FY–97 solid waste program. In particular, the State’s program for its Class III municipal landfills has been significantly changed. Details on the budget reductions are discussed in Section B (State of Alaska) of this document. EPA believes that an additional EPA public comment period on the Class III program should be provided. Consequently, the agency is not including in today’s final-partial approval the elements of its tentative determination of November 25, 1996, that applied to the State’s Class III landfill program.

On August 9, 1997, the State of Alaska enacted its Environmental Audit Privilege and Immunity Law. Based on the information provided by the State on this law, and the State’s application for program approval, EPA believes that Alaska has the authority necessary to administer a partially approved RCRA subtitle D permit program for municipal solid waste landfills. Today’s partial approval does not reflect a position by the agency regarding the state’s authority to administer any other federally authorized, delegated, or approved environmental program.